

LIBERATION

376

NEWS SERVICE

September 18, 1971

Packet #376

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*****plus assorted short material..	

Graphics: Inmates Negotiate with Prison Officials in Attica State Prison, NY.
[Lower Left is Oswald]
Credit LNS Rip-off

Cartoon of Veteran Unemployment.....P-1
Bobby Seale at Attica.....P-1
Photos from New York City.....P-2

Sorry, we forgot to credit the Fifth Estate for "Nixon Wage Price Freeze--Who Benefits?" in Packet #374. Don't forget to do so.

In the Attica story in Packet #375 we mentioned that Martin Sostre might be one of the missing inmates. We asked around and found out that he had been transferred out of Attica a while ago, so delete that part about him if you can.

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Collective: rosa borenstein, david burtt, anne dockery, beryl epstein, howie epstein, ted franklin, sally hamann, pam harding, alan howard, andy marx, kathy mulvihill, sandy shea, mike shuster, jessica siegel, steffi brooks
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schofield coryell, paris
karen kearns &
mark feinstein &
bobby heilbroner, on the road

"It is always bad news for the country when a responsible journal is forced to close down. It is particularly bad news when that development is, in part, engendered by an arm of the Government -- in this case, the Postal Service, which has already taken the first step in raising second-class mail rates to irresponsibly high levels."

--Andrew Heiskell, chairman of the board of Time, Inc.
(quoted in the New York Times, September 17, 1971)

PLEASE, PLEASE SEND US MONEY
CRISIS DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN

LIBERATION News Service

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IF YOU'RE MISSING A PAGE OR GET A BADLY PRINTED GRAPHIC, LET US KNOW AND WE'LL GET YOU ANOTHER

NINE MYTHS ABOUT WELFARE:
ZAP FAP--\$6,500 OR FIGHT

Pittsburgh Fair Witness/LIBERATION News Service

Nixon's Family Assistance Plan (FAP), or H.R. 1, calls for a basic federal guaranteed income of \$2,400 a year for a family of four, with incentives for those who find employment.

Many categories of people previously eligible for regular public assistance payments will now be ineligible under FAP: students, single persons, childless couples (unless they are over age 65, blind, or disabled). Failure to apply for pension, annuity, unemployment compensation, or similar benefits by any family member results in a loss of benefits to the entire family.

No benefits are payable on behalf of any family member who is an alcoholic or drug addict, unless he or she is in a treatment program. A family may be excluded if its head is self-employed and earns too high a gross income, even if the net income [income after taxes and business expenses] is insufficient for meeting the family's needs.

Let's take a look at some of the most common misconceptions about welfare recipients and the program.

MOST WELFARE RECIPIENTS ARE ABLE-BODIED MEN WHO ARE TOO LAZY TO WORK.

The U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) reports that less than 1% of the nation's welfare recipients are able-bodied men, and these men have to be seeking jobs through their state employment agencies to be getting any welfare at all.

Considering that the unemployment rate in December 1970 was 6% of the labor force -- and the unemployment rate among male blue collar workers even higher -- the number of able-bodied men receiving welfare is remarkably small. According to a recent survey by HEW:

- 24% are old-aged recipients (OAA)
- 8% are permanently and totally disabled (APTD)
- 1% are blind
- 50.3% are children (AFDC)
- 2.9% are incapacitated parents in the home (AFDC-UP or AFDC)

The remaining 13% are mothers. One fifth of these welfare (AFDC) mothers are in job training or are already employed but are making so little money that they still qualify for welfare.

WELFARE MOTHERS COULD WORK IF THEY WANTED TO.

First, day-care services for children are totally inadequate for the 70% of all AFDC children who are under twelve years of age. Day-care, if you can find it, is very expensive -- at least \$1,915 per year for pre-school child and \$634 for after-school and summer care for older children. A mother with one preschool child and another one in school would have to spend over \$2,500 a year for child care, which would probably be well over half her income.

Last year, HEW estimated there were some 5 million children who desperately needed day-care;

but there were only 640,000 spaces available in licensed facilities. In other words, the need for day-care is almost seven times greater than the supply. And the need is growing rapidly.

Only 18% of all AFDC mothers have ever completed high school. Nearly 34% have never gone beyond the eighth grade. Considering what it takes to find a steady job today, most unemployed AFDC mothers would have to finish high school and to complete a training program before even trying to enter the job market.

EMPLOYABLE WELFARE MOTHERS CAN FIND DECENT JOBS.

Even if a mother could find child care, complete her education and obtain a skill, she still would be hard put to find any work at all. For instance, last year in Cleveland, Ohio, there were some 16,175 jobs available to women. But there were 22,596 women looking for jobs (including 621 employable welfare mothers).

And the few jobs that are available rarely provide enough income to support a family. Although women in general are better educated than men, unemployment has been consistently more severe among women over the last decade. In 1967, for example, the unemployment rate for women was 5.2% as compared to 3.1% for men.

Not only are women discriminated against in hiring, they are also grossly underpaid for doing the same kinds of jobs that men do.

WORKING WOMEN DON'T NEED WELFARE.

Having a job is no guarantee against poverty; among all women who worked 35 hours or more per week for 50 to 52 weeks in 1966, 26% had incomes from all sources (including alimony) of less than \$3,000.

Obviously, the problem is getting an adequate income, not just getting a job.

Although the number of able-bodied adults on welfare is infinitesimal and unemployment rates increasingly higher, the welfare system clings to the notion that "putting them to work" is the answer. Under the relatively new Work Incentive Program (WIN), the welfare department can order a mother to take a job arranged by the state or local employment office, with the threat of cutting her off welfare if she does not accept -- that is, force her to take any job, even if it's not covered by minimum wage laws. In the South especially, where cheap "domestics" are in demand, the WIN program can be tantamount to involuntary servitude.

Nixon's FAP will require both men and women on welfare to accept any job that pays \$1.20 an hour, even though the Federal Minimum Wage (which doesn't apply to all jobs) is \$1.60 an hour.

MOST WELFARE RECIPIENTS ARE BLACKS WHO HAVE MOVED TO NORTHERN CITIES JUST TO GET ON WELFARE.

The majority of welfare recipients are white -- about 55%, according to HEW. Thirty-nine percent are black and 6% are American Indian and others. Recent sociological studies refute the notion that black people who moved North did so to get higher welfare payments.

During the two decades following W.W. II, some 20,000,000 Americans moved from rural to urban areas.

About one third of these migrants were non-white and most of them (90%) did settle in the great Northern industrial cities. But to get jobs, not to get on welfare; during the peak migration period, 1950 to 1960, when large numbers of black people were moving to the North, the nation's welfare rolls rose only 17% -- this despite the fact that male, non-white unemployment rates during the decade after the Korean War were particularly severe (9-15%).

Significant increases in the welfare rolls (108% from 1960-68) didn't begin to occur until long after the peak period of migration had passed.

ALL WELFARE MOTHERS DO IS HAVE ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

The stereotype welfare family has 12 children; the real average welfare family has only three. The hypocrisy of this society's attitude toward "legitimacy" is visible in three plain facts:

1. A recent report of HEW showed that one-third of all first-born American children born between 1964 and 1966 were conceived out of wedlock. One-third.

2. It is estimated that nearly one million abortions were performed in this country in 1969. Most of the "out of wedlock" and most of them on women who could afford the high prices underground abortionists frequently charge.

3. Good, thorough information about methods of contraception is available to only a small minority of this country's women; even well-to-do women have been fed quite a few lies. Yet contraceptives, because they prevent so many births in polite society, permit the retention of a cruel and debilitating label for those whose parents are not married.

WELFARE IS THE GOOD LIFE.

In Mississippi, a welfare mother gets \$59 a month to pay rent, but food and clothing for herself and three children.

Whereas the Mississippi welfare payment is patently absurd, New Jersey, the most "liberal" welfare state in the nation, pays a benignly inadequate \$341 a month (July 1970).

Computations based on a U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) survey show that a family of four needs at least \$458 a month (\$5,500 a year -- 1969 prices) to live in minimal health and nutrition. That makes New Jersey figures \$117 a month short of what it takes to survive.

A Gallup Poll reported in February 1970 that the American public, when questioned about the minimal cost of living, felt that a family of four could not get by on less than \$520 a month.

Whatever definition of adequacy you choose, the level of welfare payments in every state in the union is nothing but guaranteed annual poverty.

These facts mean that a real welfare family probably lives in crowded, substandard housing, infested with rats and roaches. That they send malnourished, ill-clothed children off to inferior schools. That they eat starchy, unbalanced meals: try it yourself on 18 1/2¢ a meal. That they

are probably obese and eventually become ill. That day in and day out, they lead frustrating, frustrated lives; day in and day out, living with the shame of poverty -- feeling it their shame, not society's; day in and day out, on the lowest rung of the ladder: on welfare.

Welfare is the "good life" only for those who have never experienced it.

MOST WELFARE RECIPIENTS ARE CHEATERS.

Many people assume that recipients make fraudulent claims. But, again, the U.S. government's own facts refute the charge. In 1969, a government investigation of fraud established that only four out of every 1,000 claims were fraudulent. Compared to Internal Revenue Statistics of fraud and tax evasion that's nothing: the IRS average is about 15%.

Cheating on your income tax is one form of casual, almost institutionalized fraud.

The real point is that for America's 12 million recipients, the welfare system itself is a fraud; poverty, the only reality.

Given the temptation, given that a few dollars more or less welfare money may be a matter of survival, the prevailing honesty of welfare recipients -- their fidelity to the rules of the very system which keeps them poor -- is, to say the least, remarkable.

WELFARE TAKES MOST OF YOUR TAXES.

Take a close look at the federal budget. Here's where your taxes really go:

Military	36.7%
Foreign affairs	1.8%
Space program	1.7%
Farm subsidies	2.7%
Interest on debt	8.9%
*Public Welfare	1.9%
Other programs	46.2%

Twenty percent of your tax dollar goes toward the war in Vietnam, so the tax payer doesn't mind spending 20% of his tax dollar to kill some one, but he doesn't want to spend more than two percent of his tax dollar to help some one; is that the conclusion we must come to?

In 1967, tax loopholes allowed 155 Americans with incomes over \$200,000 each to avoid paying any federal income tax at all.

Nine out of ten taxpayers earn less than \$10,000 a year; but in spite of the surface appearance of the tax laws, a man making over \$5,000,000 a year actually pays about the same percentage of his income in federal taxes as a man making only \$20,000 a year.

There are of course direct subsidies to the rich also. The Department of Agriculture paid 415 farm owners over \$100,000 in subsidies. Oil depletion allowances cost tax payers \$1.5 million a year.

* * *

That's the story for welfare folks. But to make matters even worse, the local bureaucracy likes to try to place all types of restrictions on recipients.

Because welfare administrators are judged by their tight-fistedness, offices all over the country break the law (HEW guidelines) to save money. HEW has admitted that 39 states and the District of Columbia are violating one or more regulations.

If you are having trouble with your caseworker or you think you ought to have one, i.e. you need welfare, you should get in touch with a local chapter of the National Welfare Rights Organizations.

There are about ten million Americans who are eligible but never get assistance because they are too proud or do not think they are eligible. Remember the state is not going to advertise the fact that they have free money available to help you out.

In the words of Mr. Frank Setcavage, Public Assistance Director in Allegheny County, N.J., "The objective of this office is to give the least amount of money possible."

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THOUSANDS MARCH FOR PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE WHILE GOVERNORS PLAY GOLF

SAN JUAN, P.R.(LNS)--While the nation's governors sat in the plush air conditioned El San Juan Hotel, sunned themselves on beaches or golfed on grassy slopes, crowds variously estimated from 25,000 to nearly 100,000 marched for Puerto Rican independence.

The crowds pushed through the Condada (the swank midtown section of the city) to tell the conventioning governors, "Yankee Go Home". Many of the governors missed seeing the surging crowds because they were off golfing.

The day long demonstration was also to mark the birthday of Don Pedro Albizu Campos--Nationalist Party leader who led an uprising against the U.S. in the early 50's.

The governors who did see the demonstration were more than a little surprised by its size--since in the last election only 3% voted for independence. Perhaps they didn't realize that most independistas refuse to vote.

One Governor who seemed to have missed the point more than the others was George Wallace who reassuredly said, "I don't think they were talking about me. I'm not a Yankee. I'm from Alabama."

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AMERICAN INDIAN ANONYMOUS

Sometimes I go about pitying myself,
and all the time
I am being carried on great winds across the sky.

--Chippewa language, adapted from the
translation by Frances Densmore

DEADLY PESTICIDE KILLS SQUIRRELS--AND PEOPLE

FRESNO, Calif.(LNS)--Starting in late September, Fresno county agricultural officials will begin dropping grain impregnated with the deadly chemical sodium fluoracetate--compound 1080-- all over county rangeland in an attempt to kill off ground squirrels. But the squirrels will not be the only victims.

One ounce of 1080, used as efficiently as possible, can kill 20,000 coyotes or dogs, 70,000 house cats--or 200 adult humans.

Ground squirrels are a problem. They destroy livestock forage crops and some human crops; their canals causes significant water losses; through their fleas they carry the threat of bubonic plague and other deadly diseases, and they themselves may cause rabies or, in cattle, tularemia.

But thousands upon thousands of animals have already been killed elsewhere in the West by 1080 meant for squirrels or mice or coyotes--even after it has killed the target animals. And 1080 continues to act even after it has killed its first victim. If another animal eats the carcass, it, too, will die. And there is no known antidote.

Even after a carcass decomposes, 1080 can be washed into streams, absorbed in plants, and eventually eaten by cattle, sheep--or even man.

But while 1080 is currently in use in 33 counties in California, including several in the Bay Area to control rodents, no other program is as large as the one in Fresno. And large-scale poisonings have led to unfortunate problems in the past, conservationists note.

A program to kill rodents near Tule Lake in 1958 caused the death of untold thousands of geese which ate the poisoned bait. The year before, some 3000 geese, ducks and pheasants were inadvertently killed by 1080 in Oregon. A 1969 program to kill Arizona coyotes (which reportedly had made off with a few hundred head of cattle) also killed 34 black bears, 73 badgers and assorted foxes and skunks, according to University of Arizona zoologist Gerald A. Cole.

1080 was developed at the University of Illinois during World War II for potential war use, although it has never been employed except in pest control operations. The grain treated with 1080 will be colored bright yellow--to dissuade other species from eating it--according to the deputy county agricultural commissioner, and only two or three kernels will be dropped per square foot. Officials say that the dangers can be avoided through these careful precautions.

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pa--leese pay your september bill
pa--leesepa--leese--pa--leesepaleesepa

PEOPLE'S HEALTH: A LOUSY STATE OF AFFAIRS

SAN FRANCISCO (LNS)--Among those who visit San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury Free Clinic, a half dozen a day are infested with lice. A spokesman for a drug company, basing his estimate on sharply rising sales of delousing shampoos and lotions, concludes that up to 5 percent of the nation's population was afflicted with skin parasites last year.

According to Newsweek, *Pthirus pubis*, the well known crab louse, is the most common invader by far. Crab lice are usually transmitted by sexual intercourse, but can also be acquired from clothing, bedsheets and toilet seats. Although the tiny animals most often infest the genital region, they may also spread to the eyelashes, armpits and other hairy areas.

Crab lice feed voraciously by sucking blood from the capillaries just beneath the skin. The severe itching that is the primary symptom of infestation is caused by an allergic skin reaction to the insect's feces and saliva. The female lice lay eggs that are attached to the hair and can't be freed by ordinary washing. The eggs hatch in seven to nine days and develop into adults in a little more than two weeks. Since the lice are less than 2 millimeters in size, they are difficult to detect without the aid of a magnifying glass.

Crab lice do not transmit disease-producing germs, but sometimes the scratching of their victims can lead to a secondary infection. Fortunately the lice are easy to get rid of. Most doctors prescribe a drug called gamma benzene hexachloride, sold under the trade name Kwell in the form of shampoo, cream and lotion, that kills the parasites and their eggs.

Kwell is also a specific for body lice and head lice, which, although less common than crab lice, are being found among an increasing number of people. Head lice are most common in children and are transmitted by personal contact as well as contaminated brushes and combs. Body lice, commonly called cooties, grow in the seams of clothing rather than the skin, but in obtaining the blood they need to live, they produce small, intensely itchy bites. Unlike other types of human lice, body lice can carry the organisms that cause typhus and relapsing fever. But these germs are not prevalent in the U.S., and there is little chance that the present resurgence of parasite infestation will lead to more serious epidemics.

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"The Vietcong is a powerful force which cannot be dislodged from its constituency as long as the constituency continues to exist."

--Samuel Huntington, Chairman,
State Department task force on Vietnam

IRELAND LACKS NATURAL RESOURCES????? AMERICAN FIRMS MAKE THE MYTH A FACT

DUBLIN (LNS) -- Ireland has the largest producing zinc, lead and silver mines in Europe, one of the largest copper mines, and the best barium deposits and fifth largest mercury mine in the world. They are all owned and controlled by American firms. These firms don't have to pay any taxes to the Irish government for the first 20 years of operation. Since none of the ore deposits will last that long, the American firms will have taken some \$600 million in clear profit from the Irish economy in less than two decades.

The Irish are getting nothing out of this except a depletion of their wealth, and if the government decides to nationalize the mines, they will more than likely pay compensation to the companies involved -- paying one more time for their own resources. The sad thing is that tax exemptions to American firms were only introduced to encourage industry to come in and create more jobs and stop generation after generation of young Irish people emigrating to America. So now they work in the mines, some of them, for \$65 a week, while the American firms make a tax-free profit of \$466 a week per employee; some others try to work the land, some are unemployed, many still emigrate to America.

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HUNG JURY FOR THE HONEYWELL 8

HONOLULU (LNS) -- A Honolulu jury was unable to make a decision September 10 and a mistrial was declared in the case of the Honeywell 8, anti-war activists who sat in at the office of the war contractor. Honeywell is the maker of a wide variety of anti-personnel weapons for use in Indochina.

The eight, including AWOL serviceman Rodney (Jake) Marley, were accused of physical trespass at the Honolulu branch office of Honeywell Corp. on May 14 of this year.

The prosecution's case was simply trying to prove that physical trespass took place and it cited property rights, time, warnings and the refusal of the defendants to leave--none of which the defendants contested. Basing their defense on international law, including Nuremberg principles pertaining to war crimes and complicity, the 8 maintained that it was not a crime to enter buildings such as Honeywell "in order to prevent murder in Indochina."

Among the defense witnesses was Dr. Robert Brown, a recently returned surgeon who had been working in a military hospital in Vietnam for a year. He testified about the nature of guava bombs, white phosphorus, and other anti-personnel weapons manufactured by Honeywell, describing their effects and intent, and stating that they affect primarily civilian populations and children in particular. He also said that military doctors and hospitals were ordered not to accept Vietnamese civilians for treatment, but

that such victims had to rely on hopelessly understaffed and undersupplied civilian hospitals.

The jury deliberated for 7 hours and finally declared that they were 8-4 for conviction. One juror told defendant Marley that if the judge had not refused to give the jury instructions on international law, the jury would have voted for acquittal.

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MEATCUTTERS FIGHT WAGE FREEZE

CHICAGO (LNS)--The Amalgamated Meatcutters and Butcher Workmen of North America (AFL-CIO) filed a suit in Federal Court in Washington challenging the constitutionality of the Nixon Wage Freeze.

The union asked the court to order the immediate payment of 25 cents an hour wage increase due 50,000 workers on September 6. The court was also asked to bar application of the freeze to any other of the union's 150,000 members, and asked for relief for all members who would have negotiated contracts during the 90-day period.

The union charged that Nixon's freeze delegates legislative power to the President, violating the separation of powers, and deprives union members of rights and property without due process or the opportunity for judicial review.

The Union plans to put a full page advertisement in local papers across the nation.

Branding Nixon as a "Robin Hood in Reverse," the ad charges that "more than \$1 million a week (in wages lost to meatcutters) has passed along in one direction only. It is flowing to the corporate treasuries of the nation's meat packers, large and small. Our wages have become their profits."

Says the ad:

"Our wages are now used to inflate such profits while --

"There is no freeze on interest rates or taxes!

"There is no freeze on the \$80 billion or more a year on military appropriations and a tragic and purposeless war in Vietnam!

"There is only the illusion of effective price control."

The ad concludes, "We packing-house workers will do what we can to expose this outrageous fraud upon the American people. We will make our protest heard in the corporate headquarters of the packinghouse companies and in the centers of government."

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"I like to think I'm a partisan in favor of life"

--Russel G. Oswald, Commissioner of Corrections, 12 hours before ordering the attack on Attica

RIDING THE COATTAILS OF MICKEY MOUSE

ORLANDO, Fla. (LNS)--Well, it had to happen. On October 1, Walt Disney Productions will open a \$400-million, 27,000 acre entertainment complex 15 miles southwest of Orlando, Florida. Call it what you will, its official name is Walt Disney's World.

Appearing with Snow White, Mickey Mouse, and Pluto will be some two dozen major corporations ranging from jelly maker J.M. Smucker Co. to U.S. Steel Corp. Each is putting up a sizable amount of money for the right to sell its products to the throngs of visitors and to use the Disney name and trademarked characters in advertising. Over the next 10 years, for instance, Eastern Air Lines, Inc., gets to call itself "The official airline of Walt Disney World,"--for \$10 million.

And those investments are small compared with the \$60 million to \$80 million that U.S. Steel is laying out to erect the first two hotels at the 27,000-acre development.

An "advertising associate," as a participating company is known, pays an annual fee that can run from \$75,000 to \$200,000 for use of the names and characters. In addition, it pays perhaps \$40,000 a year to lease space in which to sell its wares or promote its corporate identity--if it shares a building with several others. A solo pavilion can run upwards of \$100,000. Also, there are the costs of constructing the buildings--\$35,000 each for the shared structures, \$250,000 and more for a single taker.

Some 75 companies are still lined up at the Disney doorstep in the hope of latching onto the new project at whatever cost. But Disney learned from unhappy experiences at Disneyland 15 years ago that such retail outlets as a shoe store and brassiere salon on Main Street tarnish the "family fun" image.

Monsanto Co., the Florida Citrus Commission, and the various companies that are now on the inside think that the restrictions are just fine. Each has its own desire for exclusivity, and if too much competition is let in--well things might get muddled. Gulf Oil Corp., for example, hopes to appropriate sales training techniques that Disney uses with its own employees to make Gulf service station people "better friends of our customers," says Paul Sheldon, vice-president for advertising and marketing.

Florida Citrus, spending \$3-million to sponsor a Sunshine Pavilion that will sell citrus candy bars and other products, got Disney to ban the sale of artificially flavored citrus beverages throughout the park and to create a new character, "The Orange Bird," for it to use commercially. Other companies will turn to the 80-man Disney marketing staff for advice that might pay off in direct sales, like the 243% increase a beverage producer reportedly registered last year with a regional sweepstakes based on Disney characters. Eighty percent of the market base of 25 million people for Walt Disney World will come from outside the state of Florida.

U.S. Steel, which obviously cannot merchandise its connection with Disney World with the ease of consumer-oriented companies such as RCA and PepsiCo, still looks for a major return on its huge investment. Joseph R. Denbeck, president of USS Reality Development, says, "You don't build particularly unusual hotels like these (the Resort Hotel has a monorail running through its 95-ft.-high lobby) without gaining recognition." Advanced building techniques used in the revolutionary on-site assembly line construction of the sleeping rooms, which were then hoisted into place in the A-frame structure, give U.S. Steel a head start in offering similar "unitized" construction for offices, hospitals, and schools, Denbeck adds.

Paul Garrard, staff-vice-president for Coca-Cola U.S.A., sums up the attitude of most of Disney World's industrial participants when he says, "If they ever open a third park, we'd be one of the first to knock on their door, asking for a sponsorship."

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JUDGE PULLS A GUN IN COURT AGAINST 2 SOLEDAD PRISON INMATES

SALINAS, Calif. (LNS)--Judge Stanley Lawson of Monterey County Superior Court pulled a revolver and "held it in readiness" last month during a courtroom scuffle involving two Soledad Prison inmates.

The judge drew the pistol at a time when the defendants were heavily shackled both hand and foot. Judge Lawson said he never actually pointed the gun at anyone. He took it from his bench drawer only after both inmates "started cursing and attempted to escape."

He claims that his action showed no prejudice against inmates Edward Whiteside and Raymond Martinez, who face charges of assaulting a prison guard. Their attorney has filed a motion to disqualify Lawson. He argued that the defendants could not receive a "fair, unbiased, or unprejudiced hearing in court" because of the incident.

Lawson said that he began keeping the revolver after the Aug. 7, 1970 Marin County Courthouse shoot-out in which Judge Harold Haley and three others were slain. "I do not intend to go the way of... Judge Haley without a battle," he said.

-30-

Now listen, you watermelons--
if any thieves come--
turn into frogs!

from the Sea and the Honeycomb, a book of
tiny poems

edited by Robert Bly

UAW AID FLOWN TO PAKISTANI

DETROIT(LNS)--More than \$60,000 worth of multiple vitamins have been airlifted to Pakistani refugees in India as an emergency gift of the United Automobile Workers, STEP (Social, Technical and Educational Programs.) UAW retirees volunteered their services to pack the shipment which was sent to the Indian Red Cross Society.

Reuther said the project was undertaken at the request of the Indian National Trade Union Congress. He called it "an expression of solidarity with the victims of intolerable oppression."

He added: "The task of aid is too enormous for private organizations. It is the government's responsibility to render immediate and large-scale help."

"We further support all measures that will get the West Pakistan army out of the East."

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"SECURITY IN THE EVENT OF BUFFETS OF FATE": SWISS BANK ADVISES PRIVATE STASH FOR LEADERS

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania(LNS)--"Your Excellency," began the letter addressed to President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, "in this age, those who reign over this world are exposed to the permanent danger of subversive Communist riots... The capital invested by sovereigns in their own country does not represent any security in the event of such heavy buffets of fate." What Nyerere should do, the letter advised, was invest in a secret numbered account in a Swiss bank, namely the Rheinkapital GmbH, Engadinstrasse 8, Chur, from which the letter came. "We are looking forward," it concluded, "to receiving your remittance soon."

The letter couldn't have been sent to a less likely customer. Nyerere is probably the most Spartan of African heads of state, with almost no tangible assets and a monthly salary of about \$570. His small home belongs to the state and he has no car of his own. And as a confirmed socialist who recently nationalized all the buildings in his country worth more than \$14,000, Nyerere is in considerably more danger of riots by capitalists than by the left.

"In any case," said a cheerful aide to President Nyerere in Tanzania, "We don't expect any buffets of fate around here in the near future."

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DANDELION WINE RECIPE

Pittsburgh Fair Witness/LIBERATION News Service

Combine and let stand in a covered crock 9 days: 4 qts. water and 4 qts. dandelion blossoms. After 9 days add 3 lbs. honey, 3 sliced lemons, 1 cake yeast to water extract. Let this stand for 9 days in crock. Then strain into jug. Leave it, cork off till it stops working, then cork it up.

more...

TUPAMAROS STAGE SPECTACULAR MASS JAILBREAK
AS URUGUAY HEADS TOWARDS CRUCIAL ELECTION

MONTEVIDEO(LNS)--In one of the most spectacular prison breaks on record, 106 Tupamaros--including some of the organization's most important leaders--escaped from the maximum security Punta Carretas jail on September 6.

The escape came just five weeks after 38 Tupamaras crawled out of the women's prison through a drainage pipe and--like their male comrades--vanished into this city of a million and a half people.

None of the revolutionaries have been re-captured, though there are some 12,000 soldiers and police deployed in the search. Tanks sit at strategic positions around the city as soliders cordon off entire blocks for house-to-house searches. Helicopters are also being used and there are roadblocks thrown up throughout the city.

In the midst of all this, the Tupamaros managed to release British ambassador Geoffrey Jackson, whom they had held for eight months in the People's Jail. Jackson had been held as a hostage in early efforts to force the government to release the prisoners who just escaped. An MLN press release (the Tupamaros usually sign their documents "Movimiento de Liberacion Nacional --Tupamaros") said they were granting Jackson amnesty since there was no longer any point in holding him.

The 106 Tupamaros--plus five other prisoners--escaped through a tunnel that led to a house in front of the prison. According to the owner of the house, an armed unit of the MLN had seized the building hours before the first prisoner with an improvised miner's lamp tied around his head emerged from the tunnel. Ten hours later everyone was out.

It is still not clear how the tunnel was dug. The rocky soil of the area could not easily have been broken through with small or light instruments, and one reliable estimate states that more than two tons of earth had to be excavated and removed. A small amount of earth was found stuffed into mattresses in the prison, but not nearly enough to account for the length of the tunnel. The best guess is that most of the tunnel was dug from the outside into the prison.

The mechanics of one aspect of the escape route has been revealed, namely, how all the prisoners got to the cell where the entrance of the tunnel was. They had meticulously scraped away the mortar between the bricks separating the cells so that small openings were prepared that enabled them to move from cell to cell.

The operation had its touch of Tupamaro humor. At the entrance of the tunnel prison officials found a metal sign resembling those used by the City of Montevideo in the streets. This one said: MLN Traffic Department--Please Keep To The Left.

While the Tupamaros made their break, police

and military forces had been drawn to the other side of the city by disturbances in a working-class section called "The Hill." Most of the people who live there are workers in the meat plants and are known for their combativity and sympathy to the MLN. Buses were set on fire and police and military units arriving on the scene were stopped by spikes in the road and occasional sniper fire.

Leaflets passed out at the time were signed by two unions in conflict with the plants, suggesting that the action in the streets was connected to these labor struggles. While military, police and public attention was concentrated on "The Hill," the Tupamaros inside the prison and some 200 outside--according to one press estimate--carried out the escape.

Given the fumbling incompetence of the government and the tactical brilliance of the Tupamaros, most people here felt that sooner or later the MLN prisoners would escape.

One long-time prison guard recently confided to a resident of the area: "They told us they were going to leave without firing a shot before the elections and that nobody could stop them. And that's the way it was."

The escape comes just two months before a scheduled presidential election that finds the country more polarized than it has been since the bloody civil wars that lasted throughout the last quarter of the 19th century. A coalition of left forces, called the Frente Amplio and modeled after Allende's coalition in Chile, has been given a fair chance of winning the election.

Pacheco Areco, the incumbent president who has assumed practically dictatorial powers during the past three years, has further defied the country's democratic traditions by placing himself up for re-election, despite a constitutional clause prohibiting this. Pacheco has arranged for the question of re-election also to be on the ballot.

But as the election campaign gathers momentum, so also does the terror and repression. Five student and labor activists have been murdered in the past three months, newspapers supporting the Frente Amplio have been closed down periodically, and "illegal" demonstrations and meetings have been dispersed with brutal force and arbitrary arrests.

The terror has led some Uruguayans to refer to the "Guatemalization" of their country, in reference to the daily slaughter carried out by the government and other right-wing forces in that Central American nation. Although the killing in Uruguay does not approach the level of many other countries of the continent, Uruguay's recent political experience has been less violent than that of most countries and people here are frightened by recent developments.

The appearance of a well-organized right-wing terrorist youth group called Uruguayan Youth of the People (JUP) comes at a time when similar groups have sprung to life in Santo Domingo, Chile and Mexico. Also disturbingly familiar is the use

of false documents and bogus press releases attributing the murder of innocent people to revolutionary organizations. This bears a similarity to some of the more sophisticated aspects of terrorist organizations such as MANO in Guatemala and The Death Squadron in Brazil. Many of these organizations are believed to have CIA links.

A year ago last August officials at the U.S. embassy in Montevideo confidently predicted that the Tupamaros had reached the peak of their strength. For a while, the prediction seemed accurate. There was a popular wave of revulsion against the Tupamaros' execution of U.S. police advisor Dan Mitrione, a number of key Tupamaros had just been captured and many of the actions carried out by the MLN lacked clear targets and resulted in serious losses of cadre and materiel.

But the capture of top leaders such as Raul Sendic a year ago created a new wave of recruits to the organization and gave a new generation of leadership opportunity to develop. Sendic, who became a popular leader when he organized sugar cane workers in the early 60's, was one of the 106 who escaped.

As for Mitrione, a poll conducted by Gallup for the U.S. embassy and never made public showed that 20% of the people asked said they were against the execution, 20% in favor, 60% no opinion.

The Tupamaros have given their qualified support to the Frente Amplio and its existence has given the MLN--behind its numerous fronts--a chance to work politically among the people in a way they were unable to do before the election campaign. The qualification in their support is that they will not lay down their arms as long as the U.S. (which has spent half a million dollars in the past two years training Uruguayan police) and its allies use force or the threat of force against the Uruguayan people.

The threat has taken a very definite shape in the form of the military regimes in neighboring Brazil and Argentina.

A recent article in the semi-official Argentinian magazine *Confirmado* confides deliberately vague fears of an "external enemy...utilizing political pretexts...taking over Uruguay and submitting this nation (Argentina) to armed blackmail, at the mercy of international pressures." Under such hypothetical circumstances, the article states, it would be necessary for Argentina "to break the knot choking its throat."

The Brazilian press has been even more explicit, equating a Frente Amplio victory with a Tupamaro seizure of power and declaring such a condition intolerable to the security of Brazil. Most ominous of all was a recent announcement by Brazil that its army, navy and air force would be conducting maneuvers along the Uruguayan border beginning in November and lasting until the end of March.

28, with the newly elected government scheduled to take power in March.

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THE MIGRANT WORKER:
NEEDED, EXPLOITED, DISCARDED

by Tom Gilmore

Focus Midwest/LIBERATION News Service

(Editor's Note: Migrant workers have been called the invisible poor. Many spend an entire harvest season living on company property. They work in the company fields or factories, eat in the company cafeterias, and sleep in the labor camps the company provides rent free. When the season ends they cram themselves into a friend's rickety car or truck and drive straight to their next destination, be it orange groves in Florida, canneries in Illinois or Missouri, or maybe, when even these fail, home to Texas where most of the Mexicans have relatives.

They are invisible people and, like most of us who like to think of ourselves as informed citizens, I had never seen them either. But jobs were scarce last summer and as a last resort I decided to head for a canning factory in Mendota, a small town in Northern Illinois. It was there that I first saw the invisible people.)

MENDOTA, Ill.(LNS)--Mendota is typical of small towns throughout the Midwest. With a population of six or seven thousand, the town is quiet and easy going, dependent on the crops growing in the surrounding fields. But the crops of this area are not just the corn and soybeans that dominate the rest of Illinois and much of the Midwest. Here there are vegetables: peas, sweet corn, green and lima beans.

And it is here that the work is. Pickers, machine operators, truck drivers, and factory workers. Here is where, for three months every summer, the migrants come.

On the east side of Mendota stand the grain elevators. A little farther east is the fertilizer factory. And farther yet, far back from the road, stands the tall, grey cannery, an ugly structure of dirty windows and belching chimneys. In front of the factory is a small, almost indistinguishable red and green sign--Del Monte.

On the left of the factory driveway are the camps. One for single men, one for families. Both are surrounded by tall thick shrubs and a chainlink fence topped with barbed wire. Inside are the small cabins looking very much like World War II prisoner of war huts. There is only one way in or out of the single men's camp, through the main gate where a man sits 24-hours a day, signing in new workers and watching the hip pockets of the old workers for suspicious bulges. It was here that I crossed over into the world of the invisible people.

* * *

"You get two sheets, two towels, two blankets, and a pillowcase," the gatekeeper said. "Your pillow is on your bunk. You also get a key to one locker. Fail to return any of these items and their cost will be deducted from your pay. You're in Cabin Four."

There were eight double bunks in Cabin Four, 16 beds in all. Most of them were empty. In one an old man snored fitfully. Two other men lay smoking on their bunks. All were white. I was white and had been assigned to a "white" cabin. Even in the camp itself an effort was made to keep the great majority of the migrants, the Mexicans and the Puerto Ricans, separate and invisible. I later discovered that even the numbers on my work card were coded according to race.

The factory in Mendota, like similar factories throughout the Midwest, has come to depend more and more on migrant labor during the long summer growing season. Conversely, technological advances in field machinery and harvesting techniques have caused the migrants to depend more and more on the factory for their livelihood.

My first day on the job I worked for 8 hours picking up gallon cans of corn in each hand and sliding them along a metal table to another worker who pushed them toward the packing machine. Across the table, doing the same job was a Mexican about 40-years-old. On the back of his hand, just about the thin gold wedding band, was a tattoo: Born to Suffer. For our day's work we each received \$13.20.

Being single, I could get by on that amount, but what about this man? With his \$13.20 he had to feed and clothe a wife and who knows how many children. Because he lived in the company housing along with the other families, he is forced to buy his food from the overpriced company cafeteria (\$.25 for a small can of soup, \$.50 for a stale sandwich) unless he has a car, which few migrants do.

Work depends solely on the weather. A heavy rain can make the fields too muddy for the machines. A corn blight, such as the one that struck all over the country last summer, can shut down the factory for days. During the summer I spent in Mendota it was unusual for the factory to work 5 days straight. A pay check of \$30 a week was common.

Perhaps a better term for factories like the Del Monte plant is "summer sweatshop." In the winter the factory is run much like any other factory. The workers are unionized and they have adequate salaries. For the work I did I was paid \$1.65 an hour. If I had been doing the same work during the winter and belonged to the union, I would have been paid \$2.80 an hour. The winter workers, mostly white, and mostly from the surrounding area are guaranteed a certain number of hours they will work per week. There is usually only one shift per day.

In the summer everything is reversed. Pay is determined only by what the minimum wage law forces the company to pay: \$1.65 an hour. There is a ten cent raise for every season worked. Thus a worker who has given Del Monte three seasons of toil can expect all of \$1.95 an hour.

There are two shifts in the summer, day and night. The length of the shift depends on how well the harvesting in the fields is going. It could be four hours a day, three days a week; it could be ten hours a day, seven days a week.

Strikes are non-existent. The workers know that if they ever struck for union recognition or higher wages the company would have them replaced with scab labor in a matter of days. The day I left Mendota there were rumors of an impending demonstration for higher wages and more working hours. A foreman, one of the few who felt any compassion toward the migrants, said, "I sure hope they don't. It would be bad for them."

With the exception of the minimum wage law, legislative protection for the migrant is either inadequate or non-existent. On the window of the Del Monte pay office is posted a copy of the federal Fair Practices Act. This act states that overtime (at least time-and-a-half) must be paid after 40 hours of work per week. However, down near the bottom of the page is a clause giving employers a ten week exemption period during which they do not have to pay overtime until 48 hours has been worked. This ten week exemption is not used during the winter when the labor is organized to fight it. It is used in the heart of the summer to further deprive the migrant of a fair return for his labor.

The most obvious problem the migrant has in obtaining the benefits of his winter counterpart is organization. He has none. The very name migrant gives the reason why. The migrant worker is never in one place long enough to obtain any of the rights of residency or to qualify for any relief programs to see him through periods when there is no work. He is a citizen without a state, without a home.

Labor organizing is difficult for several reasons. First, the number of migrants is far greater than the number of jobs. This fact looms like an axe over the heads of the migrants, who are well aware of the people waiting to take their jobs if they step out of line. Second, the supply of jobs is shrinking. Technological advances in both the field and factory equipment are making it increasingly hard to find work. When the ancient machines in the Del Monte plant are finally replaced the work force will be cut drastically.

For migrant workers, leisure time is filled with discomfort. Sanitation facilities consist of one large combination toilet and bath house for the entire camp. There are several ancient wringer type washing machines for the workers who try to keep clean in spite of the dirt that surrounds them. The only good thing in the whole bath house is the hot water. As I stood in the shower after my first day's work, I closed my eyes to concentrate on the soothing warmth of the water and to forget about the

brown slime that covered the walls and floor of the shower stall.

Recreation facilities consisted of a shack with a television set and two mangled arm chairs. There are a few card tables and chairs for the men to gamble away the little money they have.

A small percentage of migrants are white. Most are old. They are the unskilled, the alcoholic, the rejects of white society. At the camps they can live for free and maybe earn enough for another drinking bout or perhaps bus fare back home, wherever home may be. They are bitter, dejected men. They feel they have been cheated by America and say so openly. They lie on their bunks and talk far into the night. They speak of the "corruption of the system." Some even favored revolution, saying that if the young ever revolted, they would be the first to pick up a gun and join them.

The whites can at least claim some small part, however dirty or neglected, of the American culture; for the Puerto Ricans and the Mexicans even the language is a barrier. Many who are in this country illegally live in constant fear of being discovered. Many, especially the young, are supporting families in Mexico. Many are illiterate, and the migratory way of life guarantees that neither they nor their children will ever get a decent education.

Violence is ingrained in the migrant way of life. The twenty-odd murders in Yuba City, California may have been an extreme, but individual knifings and even shootings are common. The police are frequent and hated visitors to the labor camps. I woke up one morning and found that the Border Patrol had come in the night and taken away eleven wetbacks. One of them was a boy of fifteen who was supporting his parents, sisters, and brothers back in Mexico. Incredible, but much of migrant life seems incredible now that I have left it. The long hours, seven days a week, the subsistence wages, the prison camp atmosphere.

But I was lucky, I could leave.

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LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

April 20, 1914--

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., gave the order that led to the massacre of 19 coal miners, their wives & children at Ludlow, Colorado.

Sept. 13, 1971--

Nelson Rockefeller gave the order that led to the massacre of 41 prisoners & guards at Attica Prison, Attica, New York

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BLACK DRAFT RESISTER SUES PRISON OFFICIALS FOR INTERFERING WITH MAIL, VISITORS...

TEXARKANA, Tex. (LNS)--A black inmate has sued to stop officials at the Texarkana federal prison in Texas from interfering with his mail, reading matter, and visitors.

Walter Collins charges that Warden L.M. Connett and William C. Storm, supervisor of education at the prison, have kept him from getting certain books. He says they told him he had "already received too many books."

Collins also says that he has been barred from mailing certain letters on the ground that they are "undesirable." The prisoner, who is a draft resister, has been getting mail from all over the United States and has been trying to send replies.

The warden is also accused of refusing to allow Carl Braden, information director for Southern Conference Educational Fund (SCEF) and a fellow worker of Collins's, from visiting him at the prison.

Collins was sentenced to five years after he refused to be drafted on the grounds that his New Orleans draft board was all-white and the chairman lived in another county. The Supreme Court refused to hear his case last fall and he was jailed Nov 27. He had worked with SCEF up until that time.

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WAGE-PRICE FREEZE MEANS CUT IN WAGES FOR WOOD-CUTTERS

SCEF/LIBERATION News Service

LAUREL, Miss. (LNS)--Two hundred members of the Gulfcoast Pulpwood Association (GPA) have been refusing to deliver wood to Masonite's sprawling hardboard plant since Sept. 1. They claim that the Masonite Corporation is cutting their pay to make up for the price freeze.

The GPA represents thousands of woodcutters and owners of land from which wood is cut for paper and hardboard plants across the South. About 60 per cent of the men are black and the rest are white.

A spokesman for the workers explained that Masonite had been using a scaled stick to measure wood by the cubic foot, but on Sept. 1 the company put weight scales in its yard. The wood producers say this meant a cut of 20 to 25 per cent in their earnings because they had to supply 1,900 more pounds in each unit of wood. They are paid \$20 a unit, and often have as many as three and four units on a truck.

When the men protested about the new way to measure the units of wood, company officials ran them off the property. The men are determined not to haul wood until Masonite agrees to fair measurements.

The striking woodcutters have fought against Masonite since a 1967 strike. After the strike, unity of black and white workers which developed then became an example for other workers in the South.

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"WHAT EVERY COAL MINER KNOWS"
BLACK LUNG DISEASE A KILLER

NEW YORK (LNS)--"I can't walk a city block without stopping to catch my breath," said Bill Worthington, a miner for 34 years. "I get light-headed when I climb stairs and pass out when I get too strenuous. I've had one heart attack already and the doctor says I could have another any time now."

Bill Worthington, and 28 other Appalachian miners, came to New York to tell scientists, doctors and the coal owners back home that they knew what Black Lung Disease was doing to them. Worthington was one of 28 miners from Appalachia, all disabled by black lung disease but unable to receive federal benefits, who disrupted an "international scientific" conference on black lung disease held Sept. 14 in the glittering Waldorf-Astoria hotel. The miners demanded fewer expensive conferences and more direct medical treatment for black lung disease, an ailment which today cripples 286,000 miners in the U.S.

"Every miner knows this 'mysterious' disease comes from breathing the coal dust at his workplace," said a leaflet distributed to the gathered scientists. "But if the coal companies admitted this, they they would be legally responsible for the disability of their workers. And they would have to spend some of their vast profits vacuuming and watering their mines. They would have to spend even more in disability payments to their miners."

After the conference one miner said, "The scientists here are talking about what causes black lung disease. The social security doctors back home tell you you don't have the disease, after a ten minute examination and x-ray, and the company says black lung isn't connected to working in the mines. I've been a miner for 30 years and I know I have black lung disease. I know I got it from working in the mines. The law says I can get compensation for an occupational disease. It's about time to start enforcing that law."

Dr. Donald Rassmussen, who has helped thousands of miners a step closer to their workman's compensation benefits by giving them thorough physical examinations, accompanied the miners on their trip. He says the most effective treatment for black lung disease would be to lower dust levels in the mines. "The best way to fight lung cancer caused by smoking is to stop smoking," the doctor said. "The best way to curb black lung disease is to cut down on the coal dust in the mines, which causes black lung disease."

"Coal dust irritates the lung tissue," the doctor continued. "In its advanced stages, scars are formed on the lung which prevent oxygen from being absorbed into the blood stream, or the lung tissue is actually destroyed. Once that happens there isn't much we can do, and the patient spends the rest of his life getting insufficient oxygen. Too little oxygen forces the heart to work harder pumping the blood, so miners with black lung disease are very susceptible to heart attacks."

expensive steps the mine owners could take to reduce the level of coal dust in the mines," Dr. Rassmussen said. "Just changing the size of the drill bit used in cutting the coal would help a lot. A larger bit size would cut off bigger chunks of coal, and the less cutting the less dust."

"In England, the coal companies have to wash down the coal faces with water every so often. Some companies have giant vacuum cleaners to suck out the dust. They have reduced black lung disease by 80% in this way. There is no reason why coal companies in America shouldn't be forced to take the same steps to protect their men from coal dust."

"Better ventilation in the mines would make them much safer places to work," the doctor said. "Coal dust not only causes black lung disease, it's also a major factor in underground explosions. Last December 30, there was an explosion in a mine in Hyden, Kentucky where 38 miners were killed. The ventilating fan in that mine looked like something out of a washing machine. A better ventilating system would have saved those lives."

"One of the ironic aspects of the Hyden explosion, and this is a good example of why it's so difficult to get safety improvements in the mines," the doctor said, "is that a company official at the Hyden mine has since been made a mine inspector. He was part of a company bureaucracy whose negligence caused 38 deaths. Now he inspects safety precautions in other mines. The miners know that a man like that isn't really concerned with their safety."

"The trouble isn't in the law. A stiff Coal Mine and Safety Act went into effect on March 30, 1970 with penalties up to \$10,000 for every safety infraction discovered. The problem is that the law isn't being enforced, and the coal companies are doing everything they can to cover up their negligence. In the nine months between the time when the Coal Mine and Safety Act was passed and the Hyden explosion, there was not a single infraction of the law recorded."

Bill Worthington backed up the doctor's statements: "There can be as many as 100 work sites in a mine. When the company gets a notice that an inspector is coming around, they fix up one of the sites so that everything looks perfect. The inspector spends only an hour in the whole mine, and sees just that one site where things have been tidied up. The inspector fills out his 'no violations' report in the company office."

Dr. Rassmussen admits it will be a long fight to get significant improvements in mine safety. In the meantime he'll continue to run his Pulmonary Laboratory in the Appalachian Regional Hospital in Beckley, West Virginia. In West Virginia, 62% of the miner's claims for black lung compensation are denied. Nationally, 58% are denied benefits. Social Security doctors, who examine most of the men filing for compensation, consistently deny that the men have the disease or say that they are not sufficiently sick to receive compensation.

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ATTICA, N.Y. (LNS) -- "P-1", "P-2", "P-3", ...said the tags which hung from the toes of the prisoners who were killed in the Attica Prison Rebellion or Massacre, as people are beginning to call it. Even with those labels, they couldn't quite keep track of how many bodies they had. On Thursday, Sept. 16, three days after the attack on the liberated prison, prison officials announced there were 33 bodies; the next day they discovered they had counted several bodies twice and now they claimed 30 prison deaths, so far. "P-1", "P-2" and "P-3" just had to do for anxiously waiting relatives since they didn't get around to announcing names until Friday.

Tuesday, Sept. 14, the Monroe County Medical Examiner, Dr. John Edland, announced that all of the bodies he examined -- prisoners and hostages -- were killed by bullets.

"Some were shot once, some as many as five, ten, twelve times," he said, with "two types of missiles, buckshot and large caliber missiles." One wounded hostage recuperating at a nearby hospital was found to have particles of an expanding "dumdum" bullet. (A dumdum is a soft-nosed bullet designed to expand upon impact, entering with a small hole and leaving a large hole.) The wound left a hole "where you could put your two fists," said one source from the hospital.

The reaction from prison officials who had gone into gory detail about the slit throats and the guard they claimed had been castrated was pure denial. Russell G. Oswald, the State Commissioner of Corrections who signed the ultimatum which was sent into the prisons to give up or face the consequences, claimed he never had told the reporters about slit throats or castrations.

With that he refused to answer any more embarrassing questions and left his press conference. Whatever the role of Oswald, who is certain to be a center of public attention now that the initial cover-up story has been exposed, it is clear that quite a few people were happy to spread lies that would present the prisoners as barbarous and inhumane. Deputy Director of Corrections Walter Dunbar (an expert recruited from San Quentin, California), the newly freed hostages, spokesmen for Attica's Warden Mancusi, and members of joint police-troop assault team sold the same lurid tale to a press that sunk its teeth into the sensationalism with glee.

Dr. Edland said he had received a telephone call from someone in Gov. Rockefeller's office, urging him to cancel the press conference at which his autopsy findings were being announced. He said that state trooper observers watched as he performed the autopsies.

"I'm my own man and I call things as I see them. All I know is I have 27 bodies [the others died after he did the autopsies but they too were found to be killed by gunshots -- ed.] in my office, which is more than I ever want to see

* * *

The bodies were first examined not by the coroner's physician in Attica, Dr. Merlin Bissel, as they were supposed to be but by the prison doctor, Paul Sternberg, who was suddenly appointed acting coroner. (Prominent among the inmates' demands during the rebellion was the replacement of Sternberg). Coroner Paul Slusarzck of nearby Perry said he had been informed by prison officials that Dr. Bissel was not available, so Dr. Sternberg had been appointed acting coroner. Bissel said later that he had been ready and willing to do the job.

William Quinn, the hostage who died on Saturday after being returned by the inmates for outside medical help, was thrown out of a window by prisoners according to all the early reports. He died from a fractured skull. When the inmates were told about the accusation, they said, "If we could throw a man out a steel-barred window, we could escape the same way, couldn't we?"

A reporter from Harlem's Amsterdam News checked every window in cellblock D and found them all barred and about six inches square. Another reporter talked about getting a tour around cellblock C which was under the control of prison officials in the middle of the rebellion:

"Entering, we were struck by the pathetic sight of shaving mirrors popping instantly from the window of each steel door; the windows are too small for the cell's occupants to see anywhere but straight ahead, and only the mirrors can show the prisoners what is happening."

* * *

Very few people in the town of Attica -- where everyone has a brother or aunt or father who works in the jail, where the local bakery and hardware store owe their lives to the buying power of the giant grey fortress -- would believe the truth of Edland's findings. No matter that he was surrounded by a circle of state troopers as he worked.

A relative of Carl W. Valone, one of the hostages who was killed, was in a minority when he said: "We feel Carl was not killed by the prisoners but by a bullet that had the name Rockefeller written on it." He did not want the reporter to mention his name since he holds a government job but he mentioned that his whole family feels the same way.

While people like Rev. James P. Collins, chaplain of Elmira prison, eulogized the dead guards, calling for the creation of "a maximum security institution for about 150 hardcore, militant, Marxist revolutionaries," doctors were frantically trying to get in to see the injured prisoners.

Before dawn on Tuesday morning, doctors and more....

nurses from the Medical Committee for Human Rights from hospitals all over New York City tried to get in to treat the injured inmates. They, along with lawyers from Buffalo and New York City, were refused entry even the next day when they returned with a federal court order commanding the prison officials to let them in. Teams of black doctors and nurses were also turned away.

Wednesday, Sept. 15, 150 students at the State University of New York at Buffalo held a sit-in in the office of the Dean of the University of Buffalo Medical School, Dr. Leroy Pesch. They presented him with five demands including demands that the Medical School take over full responsibility for the prisoners' health, that families of dying and injured prisoners be given full visitation rights, and that there be public statements about the health of each of the injured prisoners. Twelve hours later, at 1:15 a.m., a representative from Dr. Pesch came out and said the demand had been accepted "to the extent they were possible."

A team from the E.J. Meyer Memorial Hospital (the hospital associated with the University of Buffalo) went over "to examine the prisoners." They said that the inmates "had not been seriously injured."

Dr. Alyce Gullattee, who came up from Howard University Hospital in Washington with five other doctors, said she was told by a number of doctors and nurses who went in that the prisoners' chests were being examined through their cellbars. "They are asked to cough, then stand back. And they're looked at. That's not an examination, it's an inspection." Prison authorities refused to let her or the other doctors from Howard go in.

A black registered nurse from New York, George Nicholas, said he had been asked by the state to come up. He showed an airplane ticket the state had paid for and said he had been told, "We want blacks and Puerto Ricans up here." The next day, he was barred from the prison.

Another black doctor, Lionel Sifontes, was at first barred from entering the prison until he told guards he was on the Meyer Hospital team. After he came out, he announced that prisoners told him that many of them had been clubbed. "I saw physical evidence of it," he added.

Finally, on Friday Sheldon Schwartz, a doctor who went into the prison with the team that got thru, told the press that between 300 and 350 prisoners were wounded and not the 29 that the prison authorities talked about. He had talked to two surgeons who had been operating on prisoners since the day of the raid. Three hundred to 350 had bullet or pellet wounds and 30 were in critical condition.

"Ninety percent of the torso wounds were back entry wounds," Sheldon reported. "We were told by many prisoners that most of the prisoners were shot either fleeing the shooting, lying on the ground, ducking, or trying to shield themselves

from the bullets." The orders given to the assault team were to shoot anyone who resisted and since inmates were told to sit on the ground with their hands over their heads, anyone who was standing up or running away was resisting.

Schwartz said that many prisoners who were locked up in Cell-Block C -- recaptured by guards early in the rebellion -- watched the shooting from their cells. Two other doctors said that fleeing inmates saw other prisoners shot in the back while lying prone to avoid gunfire. Another prisoner was shot while cowering in a trench, they said.

A National Guardsman described what happened while he was inside to a Federal Court hearing. James P. Watson distributed ammunition to his

DEMONSTRATIONS PLANNED TO PROTEST MASSACRE

A nationwide demonstration to protest the massacre at Attica prison has been called for October 2 by the People's Coalition for Peace and Justice and the Harrisburg Defense Committee. The following institutions have been named as targets for the protest:

San Quentin, Calif.; Cook County Jail, Chicago; Terminal Island in Los Angeles; Sandstone, Minn.; the Alderson Federal Women's Correctional Facility in W. Virginia; Ashland, Ky.; Springfield Penitentiary in Joliet, Ill.; Danbury, Conn.; and Attica, New York.

The Young Lords Party is planning a mass demonstration/funeral for the 30 slain inmates in New York City as soon as all the names of the dead are made public. They are demanding:

1. that state officials honor the 28 demands which they previously accepted in negotiations with the prisoners,
2. removal of Rockefeller, Oswald, and Mancusi,
3. the establishment of an international committee to study the American penal institutional system.

Many other plans for protest will be made concrete in a few more days. Call Liberation News Service for our latest information.

group and noticed the inmates being carried out on stretchers. "Many of them were twitching. I would see a lot of blood. It appeared that some were in convulsion or shock. Occasionally, you could see a prisoner lift his head and try to cover his feet."

When they did that, guards would yell racist epithets at them and shout, "Keep your head down or we're going to bash it in." State troopers ordered one inmate to get up. When the prisoner said he could not, a doctor "looked at his back and then walked away." Then two troopers prodded him with clubs and "I heard one trooper say, 'Break him, so he'll stand.'" They cracked him

him a few times. He described the sound of clubs hitting flesh and bone and the sound of prisoners moaning. "One sergeant told me that 'what you saw today you are not to repeat anyone else. You could be sued,'" related Watson.

* * *

Most people from around the area wouldn't agree with Watson's perspective on the attack or with the views of Carl Valone's family. "Bull!" said a brother-in-law of John G. Montelone, a slain hostage, to the idea that the invaders shot the hostages. He quit his job at the prison as a guard right after the last hostage was freed. "I don't want to work there as long as this state is run by the Oswalds, the Dunbars and the niggers."

Most people in the area would agree about the "niggers". Blacks, sometimes relative of inmates, sometimes not, coming up to the prison had guns pointed in their faces and found themselves turned back from the prison. When Bobby Seale arrived at the prison, one cop guarding the entrance to the prison was heard to have said, "It's a goddamn shame that that black bastard is so close that I can almost touch him. I'd like to take this rifle and blow his goddamn brains out."

When Tom Wicker (who is originally from North Carolina) came out to report to the other reporters what happened inside he was greeted with cries from police, guards, and hostages' relatives: "Nigger-lover. You must live with niggers. Sonofabitch. What kind of white man are you? Standing on a platform with a nigger and halping a nigger talk against your own. You dirty double-crossing bastard. You ought to be strung up."

Black and Puerto Rican negotiators, black reporters were all told that "you're next".

* * *

Friday,

/Louis Lefkowitz, the NY Attorney General himself quashed the State judge's injunction against administrative amnesty which the prisoners succeeded in getting two days into the rebellion.

Even before the injunction was quashed though, some of the leaders of the rebellion, prisoners who had acted as spokesmen for the 1300--like Brother Richard or Brother Herb were in the box--in solitary confinement. Warden Mancusi obviously agreed with Rev. Collins who thought the "hard-core" should be isolated.

* * *

But can you talk about the "hard core" and "the ordinary prisoners who are forced to go along" as Rev. Collins did? The thing that most of the people that went in as part of the negotiating committee or as reporters remarked about was the "absolute solidarity" among the prisoners. During one of the meetings between the negotiating committee and the prisoners, a black inmate grabbed the microphone and shouted: "To the oppressed people all over the world--we got the solution. The solution is unity."

One inmate, Blease Montgomery, a sandy-haired white from Conway, S.C. said: "Man, there's people in here we treated like dogs down home. . .but I

want everyone to know we gon' stick together, we gon' get what we want, or we gon' die together. I've learned so much that if I get out of this I want a plane ticket out of this country."

Though Attica Prison was 85% black and Puerto Rican, the People's Central Committee, which acted as a governing body, had a number of whites on it (one of them was Sam Melville, who was convicted of conspiracy to bomb in N.Y.C. and who was shot dead in Cell Block D during the invasion). Long before the rebellion, blacks, Puerto Ricans and whites had formed groups which they called the Black Panthers and the People's Party for blacks, the Young Lords for Puerto Ricans (Santiago Santos--one of the dead inmates was a Young Lord) and the Weatherman for whites.

According to Jose "GI" Paris, one of the Young Lords Party representatives on the negotiating committee who had served time in Attica, "If you're not popping your fingers and listening to music and reading 'Slut'--pornographic magazines in there, if you're not doing that writing or studying or talking to other inmates seriously about serious questions, you get repressed. Because then they call you a potential trouble maker."

The Young Lords of Attica Prison had presented a 24 page petition to Warden Vincent Mancusi in April with demands very similar to those of the rebellion--better medical care, food, end of censorship and political repression, etc. The petition was adopted by all of the inmates and presented in a similar form as a manifesto to Oswald in late June and early July. He delayed and delayed in answering it, promising reforms and never coming through with them. He thought, as one Buffalo reporter put it, that "short-termers were more concerned about getting out than improving the prison and a short waiting period should be of no consequence to the inmates serving long terms."

The manifesto "didn't ask for anything that any human being shouldn't be entitled to," said one inmate, Wayne Trimmer. The July manifesto asked that inmates, "get more than one shower a week, that our food be covered to keep the flies off, that the bugs be washed off our lettuce and that they improve the medical treatment," related Trimmer. One inmate who got right before the rebellion, Al Cruz, said that he dreamed of showers. He worked in the metal shop where the thermometer climbed to 120 degrees. "You just can't make nice suds with the cold water in your cell."

What the Puerto Rican petition said in April was:

The concerns we have enumerated here in are not mere concocted complaints designed to instigate a prison rebellion, we do not feel that it is necessary to resort to violent and otherwise destructive means to gain an objective and worthwhile program such as the one that we have outlined here. We believe that reason and sin-

more

cerity will guide your approach in the consideration of this petition. We must urge, however, that you be aware that we are equally determined to support any required action that we are so directed to support for the purpose of accomplishing the necessary goals in this petition.

Our claims to these basic and well-defined human values which give meaning to human dignity are academic, we are not without justification in our assertions that we have a right to demand change, especially if that change restores to us the human dignity that was stolen from us. . . long before our current problems with the law enforcement agencies of this country. We have suffered because of law rather than because we violated the law.

From Oswald, there was no response to either this or to the manifesto in July. September 3, he sent a tape recording around to be played in the cell blocks where he tried to placate the inmates -- "I am certain you realize that change can't be accomplished overnight. . . ." Six days later rebellion erupted.

* * *

In the days following the uprising at Attica, inmates in other prisons were put into 24 hour lock-up for fear they would start a rebellion in response to the one in Attica. In the Baltimore City jail, 180 prisoners barricaded themselves in at breakfast in the cafeteria. They hurled trays, broke windows and tried to take a guard hostage. One guard was injured and 11 inmates were taken to the hospital.

In the Great Meadow Correctional Facility in Comstock, New York, 75 inmates threw bottles and set small fires in their cells while guards were making their rounds. The Warden blamed it on some "very smooth militants". Seventy-four prisoners from Attica had been transferred there but he said they had been separated from the other inmates and had not taken part in the disturbance.

At Clinton Prison in Dannemora, N.Y., 250 prisoners started in a group towards the mess hall, leaving 15 inmates with black armbands stationed along the route. Guards captured them and brought them back to their cells.

At the Marion Federal Prison in Marion, Ill. a convict was shot to death by guards as he and other inmates allegedly tried to ram a truck through double fences surrounding the prison.

For five days, Attica's doors were pried open enough so that some of the outside world found out a little what was happening inside. Now they're closed again, even tighter than before. Many inmates have been dispersed to other prisons. People authorities have considered leaders (who were quoted in newspapers or had their pictures

taken) are locked into the hole with no word out to even other inmates. Whether they are wounded from bullets or beatings or whatever, no one knows. Hospitalized inmates, some with internal bleeding or hemorrhaging are shackled so tight that it often stops circulation. When people from the black community tried to get in to see them, they were stopped at the door and were given the names of the inmates and their condition in one word.

The inmates can't even get out word like the inmates in San Quentin did by sending a note out with the two remaining Soledad Brothers since no one in Attica has a trial coming up. Attica is a sealed fortress again.

-30-

ALL OF US OR NONE

Slave, who is it who shall free you?
Those in deepest darkness lying,
Comrade, these alone can see you,
They alone can hear you crying.
Comrade, only slaves can free you.
Everything or nothing. All of us or none.
One alone his lot can't better.
Either gun or fetter,
Everything or nothing. All of us or none.
You who hunger, who shall feed you?
If it's bread you would be craving,
Come to us, we too are starving.
Come to us and let us lead you.
Only hungry men can feed you.
Everything or nothing. All of us or none.
One alone his lot can't better.
Either gun or fetter.
Everything or nothing. All of us or none.
Beaten man, who shall avenge you,
You, on whom the blows are falling,
Hear your wounded brothers calling.
Weakness gives us strength to lend you;
Comrade, come, we shall avenge you.
Everything or nothing. All of us or none.
One alone his lot can't better.
Either gun or fetter.
Everything or nothing.
All of us or none.
Who, oh wretched one, shall dare it?
He who can no longer bear it
Counts the blows that arm his spirit,
Taught the time by need and sorrow,
Strikes today and not tomorrow.
Everything or nothing. All of us or none.
One alone his lot can't better.
Either gun or fetter.
Everything or nothing. All of us or none.

--Bertolt Brecht

it's early in the morning

about 4 a.m.

we got up 20 hours ago

reluctantly
only four hours sleep
under our belts

we could finish this packet off
with another article or two

snatched from the box labelled "Ready to Type"

but first things first

this is not just a sunday morning prayer
or a recreation for the incestuous few

it is a movement

in another eight hours, we and we don't know how many others

converge on union square, nyc

where many subway lines converge

this convergence is a strange and beautiful thing

a conspiracy of many souls
the gunfire at Attica punctuating
our long,
slow,
unforgiving scream

we will haunt union square, nyc

till our lungs
wear thin and our eyes sting with sweat and our legs go limp

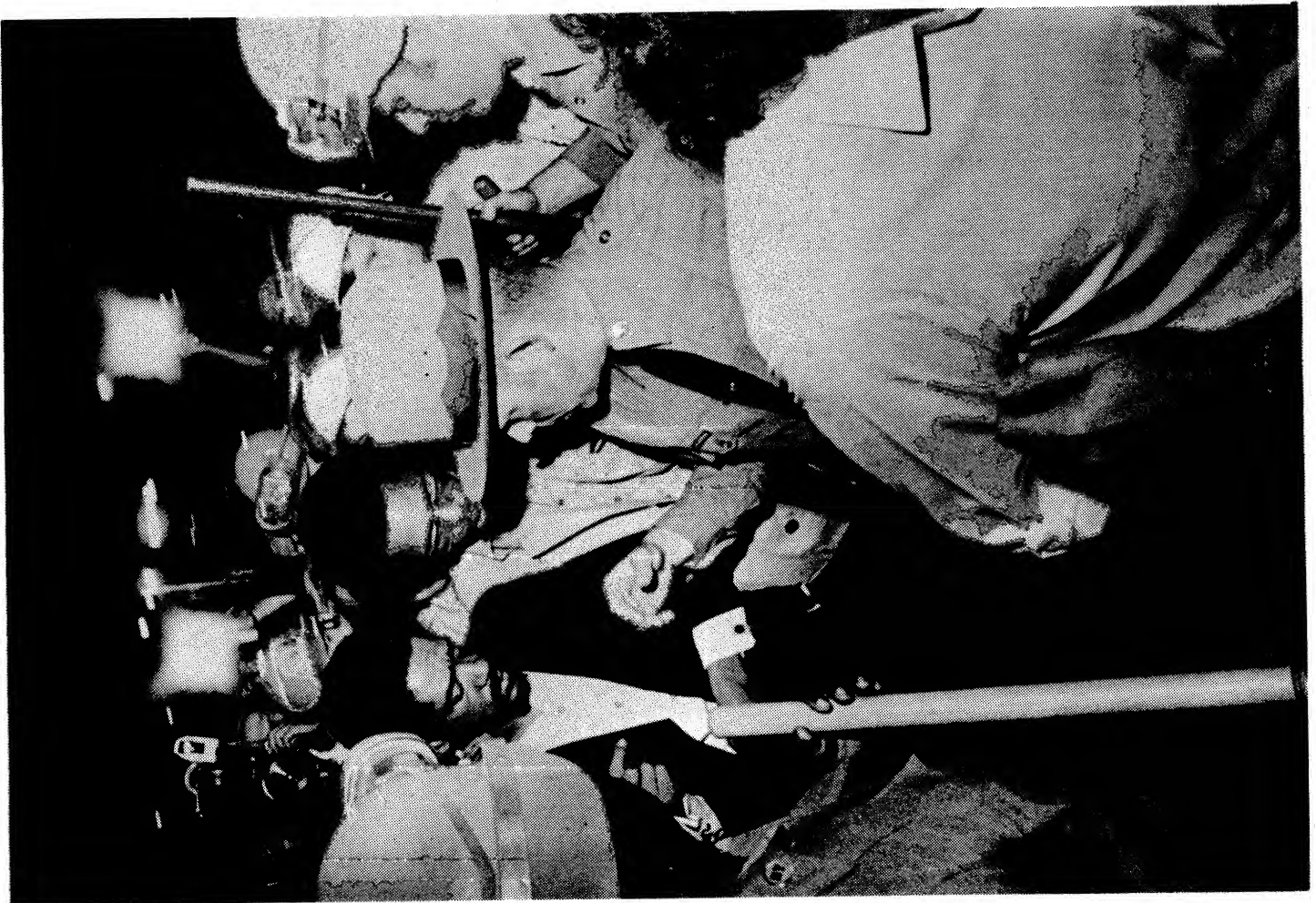
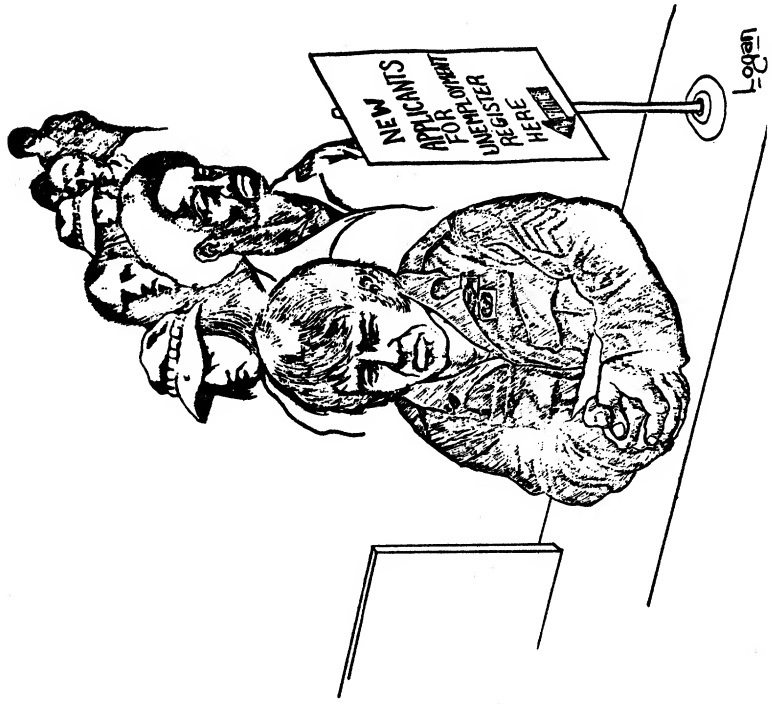
300 shot of the rebel prison commune
good people now are gone
their attackers escaped intact
if we had a flag...

it would fly half-mast

we have no flag.
it will fly half-mast just the same.

nothing more to say just now
now time to sleep, gather strength
then fight

good night



Bobby Seale arrives at Attica State Prison in New York, earlier this week at request of Attica inmates.

Credit LNS.

credit the First Casualty/LNS



Photos from New York City, above Central Park, and below the Bowery.
Credit INS, photo by Jerry Long